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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 001175

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: POST RECOMMENDS PASSPORT REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE
DEPLOYING TO CJTF-HOA

1. (U) SUMMARY: Because some military members deployed to the Combined Joint Task Force- Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, are redirected to jobs outside of Djibouti in countries that require US passports for entry, Post asks DOD to consider requiring all soldiers deploying to the CJTF-HOA or JSOTF staff to have a tourist and/or official passport before leaving the United States. END SUMMARY

2. (U) Under the SOFA with Djibouti, only a military ID is required for military air entry into the host nation; however, Post's consular office processes six to twelve passport applications each month, on average, for soldiers at CJTF-HOA who have been temporarily assigned to duty in other countries of the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Yemen, Eritrea and Ethiopia all require U.S. military members to present passports for entry.

3. (U) Since September 11, passports cannot/cannot be issued from Posts, save emergency one entry passports back to the United States. Tourist passport applications are sent to the National Passport Center in New Hampshire. Official passport applications are sent to the Special Issuance Agency in Washington, DC. Processing takes a minimum of four weeks.

4. (U) Comment: It has been Post's experience that the issuance delay negatively impacts CJTF-HOA's mission, as slots are often left empty until a passport can be issued. Post asks that DOD consider requiring those who may be deployed in AOR countries other than Djibouti to obtain a passport before leaving the United States. It is Posts' opinion that this would greatly aid CJTF-HOA's responsiveness and flexibility.
RAGSDALE